Kuttanad floods.

52. MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any representation that an enquiry be made in regard to the floods in Kuttanad; and

(*b*) if so, whether any action has been taken in the matter?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under investigation.

Agricultural indebtedness in the State.

53. MR. M. N. NARAYANA MENON: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the aggregate indebtedness of the Travancore ryots; and

(*b*) whether their debts are on the increase or decrease?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*a*) The total rural debt of the whole State as per the Banking Enquiry Committee's report is somewhere about Rs. 25 crores and according to the 1931 Census Report, about Rs. 20 crores.

(*b*) There is no information regarding this.

Contracts regarding the State Railway.

54. MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to place on the table copies of the various contracts entered into with the Secretary of State regarding the South Indian Railway (Travancore Section)?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: The member is referred to the replies given to interpellation No. 57 and supplementary questions thereto in the Council on 26-8-1933.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

PRESIDENT: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. John Kattakayam. It reads thus:

> "I beg to move the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the urgent necessity for the immediate correction of statistics regarding rubber production which, as at present prepared, are wrong and prejudicially affect Travancore's interest in her quota under the Rubber Restriction Scheme."

I have first to enquire whether there is any objection to the motion being taken up.

No objection was raised.

PRESIDENT: The Chair allows it, and fixes 3-30 P. M. to-day for the discussion.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Under the Rules, the President has first to read the draft amendment and ask whether the member has the leave of the House.

PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

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[President.]

The motion before the House is that the words "at least 24 hours earlier" be added at the end of clause (1) of Standing Order No. 7.

Has the member the leave of the House to make the motion?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I object to it, Sir.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I move that the draft amendment be referred to a Select Committee.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I second it.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: I move that the Select Committee shall consist of Messrs. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, K. N. Kesavan Namputiripad, S. Adam Sait, K. K. Thomas, the Law Officer of Government, the Chief Secretary to Government and myself.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

PRESIDENT: Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai will be the Chairman, and the Law Officer, the Convener; and the report should be submitted before the next session of the Council.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

Abolition of export duty on cocoanut products.

MR. G. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad cum Parur*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

> *This Council recommends to the Government that, in view of the disastrous economic depression and in view of the abnormal fall in the price of cocoanut products and the difficulties experienced in maintaining cocoanut gardens from their proceeds, the export duty on cocoanut products be completely abolished till normal conditions are restored.*

Sir, in moving this resolution, I beg to point out that the grievances of the cocoanut-grower have been repeatedly brought to the notice of Government especially during the last few years. Ever since the economic depression set in, matters have reached such a crisis that any further postponement of the consideration of these grievances may not lead to happy results. In this connection, I shall quote some figures which will show the seriousness of the situation and the importance of the question. According to the Census of 1931, the total cultivated area in Travancore is 22,01,295 acres, out of which the area under cocoanut cultivation in 1107 was 6,64,899 or 32 per cent. of the total cultivated area. The Census Report also shows that nearly fifty per cent. of the total population are supported by agriculture. Out of them, 8,95,782 are engaged in agriculture; and out of these, 1,66,916

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